

Union Calendar No.

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3448

[Report No. 118-]

To amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America's battlefields.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. LETLOW, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BACON, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mrs. MCCLELLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER --, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 17, 2023]

A BILL

To amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America's battlefields.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “American Battlefield*
5 *Protection Program Enhancement Act of 2023”.*

6 **SEC. 2. AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM**
7 **IMPROVEMENTS.**

8 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 308101 of title 54, United*
9 *States Code, is amended to read as follows:*

10 **“§ 308101. Definitions**

11 *“In this chapter:*

12 *“(1) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means*
13 *the Secretary, acting through the American Battle-*
14 *field Protection Program.*

15 *“(2) BATTLEFIELD REPORTS.—The term ‘Battle-*
16 *field Reports’ means, collectively—*

17 *“(A) the document entitled ‘Report on the*
18 *Nation’s Civil War Battlefields’, prepared by the*
19 *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and*
20 *dated July 1993; and*

21 *“(B) the document entitled ‘Report to Con-*
22 *gress on the Historic Preservation of Revolu-*
23 *tionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the*
24 *United States’, prepared by the National Park*
25 *Service, and dated September 2007.”.*

1 (b) *PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE*.—Section 308102(a)
2 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking
3 “Federal” and all that follows through “organizations” and
4 inserting “Federal agencies, States, Tribes, local govern-
5 ments, other public entities, educational institutions, and
6 nonprofit organizations”.

7 (c) *BATTLEFIELD LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS IM-*
8 *PROVEMENTS*.—Section 308103 of title 54, United States
9 Code, is amended—

10 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
11 lows:

12 “(a) *ELIGIBLE SITE DEFINED*.—In this section, the
13 term ‘eligible site’—

14 “(1) means a site that—

15 “(A) is not within the exterior boundaries of
16 a unit of the National Park System; and

17 “(B) is identified in the Battlefield Reports
18 as a battlefield; and

19 “(2) excludes sites identified in the Battlefield
20 Reports as associated historic sites.”;

21 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “State and
22 local governments” and inserting “States, Tribes,
23 local governments, and nonprofit organizations”;

1 (3) *in subsection (c), by striking “State or local*
2 *government” and inserting “State, Tribe, or local gov-*
3 *ernment”;* and

4 (4) *in subsection (e), by striking “under this sec-*
5 *tion” and inserting “under this section, including by*
6 *States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit orga-*
7 *nizations.”.*

8 (d) *BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION GRANTS IMPROVE-*
9 *MENTS.—Section 308105 of title 54, United States Code,*
10 *is amended—*

11 (1) *by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-*
12 *lows:*

13 “(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish*
14 *a battlefield restoration grant program (referred to in this*
15 *section as the ‘program’) under which the Secretary may*
16 *provide grants to States, Tribes, local governments, and*
17 *nonprofit organizations for projects that restore day-of-bat-*
18 *tle conditions on—*

19 “(1) *land preserved and protected under the bat-*
20 *tlefield acquisition grant program established under*
21 *section 308103(b); or*

22 “(2) *battlefield land that is—*

23 “(A) *owned by a State, Tribe, local govern-*
24 *ment, or nonprofit organization; and*

1 “(B) referred to in the Battlefield Reports.”;

2 and

3 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(b) *ELIGIBLE SITES.*—The Secretary may make
6 grants under this section for Revolutionary War, War of
7 1812, and Civil War battlefield sites—

8 “(1) eligible for assistance under the battlefield
9 acquisition grant program established under section
10 308103(b); or

11 “(2) on battlefield land that is—

12 “(A) owned by a State, Tribe, local govern-
13 ment, or nonprofit organization; and

14 “(B) referred to in the Battlefield Reports.”.

15 (e) *UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS.*—Chapter 3081 of
16 title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
17 end the following:

18 “**§308106. Updates and improvements to Battlefield**
19 **Reports**

20 “Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment
21 of this section, and every 10 years thereafter, the Secretary
22 shall submit to Congress a report that updates the Battle-
23 field Reports to reflect—

1 “(1) *preservation activities carried out at the*
2 *battlefields in the period since the publication of the*
3 *most recent Battlefield Reports update;*

4 “(2) *changes in the condition, including core and*
5 *study areas, of the battlefields during that period; and*

6 “(3) *any other relevant developments relating to*
7 *the battlefields during that period.*”.

8 (f) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for*
9 *chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, is amended*
10 *as follows:*

11 (1) *By amending the item relating to section*
12 *308101 to read as follows:*

 “308101. *Definitions.*”.

13 (2) *By adding at the end the following:*

 “308106. *Updates and improvements to Battlefield Reports.*”.